aware that the present dispensary building is not in good condition and some provision will be made in the next year's budget towards the construction of a new building.

As for the removal of arrack and toddy shops from within the municipal limits, you know that an experiment is being tried in Changanacherry, the result of which is being watched.

72. Needs of the Vilavankod taluk.

MR. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod taluk*) urged the need for abolishing the tolls levied in the Padannalumud market. The Dewan Peishkar had recommended the abolition of tolls, but it would appear that the Land Revenue Commissioner had reported to the Government that the market was not an evening market but a day market and that therefore the tolls should not be abolished. A local inspection by the Dewan would convince him of the real nature of the market.

The next request was for the abolition of the western P. W. D. toll-gate at Kuzhithurai. As a result of the representation made on the subject at the 25th Session of the Assembly, the Government had decided to shift the Kuzhithura toll-gate to the 22nd milestone of the M. S. road with effect from the 1st Chingam 1106. The member pointed out that what was wanted was either the shifting of the toll-gate to the frontier of the taluk or the abolition of the western toll-gate. The decision of the Government did not make it clear whether the two toll-gates were to continue or not. If the two gates were to be continued, the grievances of the people would not be redressed. If, however, the main (eastern) gate was shifted to the 22nd milestone, *i. e.* outside the Kuzhithura municipal limits, that municipality would strive to establish a toll-gate within the municipal limits and then the travelling public would have to pay two tolls. In the circumstances, the main toll-gate should be removed, if at all, to the frontier of the taluk preferably to Injivila between the 19th and 20th mile stones but not to the 22nd milestone and the western toll-gate abolished.

Another urgent need of the inhabitants of Vilavankod was the appointment of a qualified doctor in the grant-in-aid Mission Hospital at Martandam. It was the subject matter of several representations at successive sessions of the Assembly. On the strength of those representations, the Government made an enquiry and said that the medical officer there was duly qualified, while as a matter of fact he was not. There was abundant proof for this. There was however an experienced medical officer, though not duly qualified, for a very short period, but he was soon transferred. The Hospital authorities should therefore be asked to appoint a duly qualified doctor and, if that request was not complied with, the Government grant should be stopped.

The Arumana dispensary was affording medical relief to a large number of people and the single medical officer there could not cope with the increased volume of work. An assistant medical officer should therefore be appointed in that institution and it should be converted into a Hospital.

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The inhabitants of Putukada and the surrounding places were put to much hardship on account of the absence of facilities for medical aid in the locality. The need for a hospital at Putukada in order to remove their hardships had been brought to the notice of the Government at the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th Sessions of the Assembly. A dispensary should therefore be established without further delay.

A grant should be awarded to the Mahatma Gandhi Hospital in the taluk. When the request was made at the 25th session of the Assembly, it was stated that the question would be considered if the hospital could be removed to a place between Kuzhittura and Parassala and conducted by a properly qualified doctor. The hospital authorities had already applied for a plot of ground at Kazhukintitta situate between the two places. Pending construction of a suitable building there, they had decided to locate it at Padannalummud. If the Government considered that Kazhukintitta was not a central place, the hospital would be removed to any other place selected by the Government. In the circumstances, a decent grant should be awarded to the hospital.

The *pakuthies* of Edakcd and Arumana and portion of the Kaliyal *pakuthi* should be transferred from the jurisdiction of the Tiruvattar Police Station to the Kuzhithura Police Station. In reply to previous representations, the Government had stated that the question would be considered along with the Police re-allocation scheme. The question should be taken up without further delay. Similarly, the Police jurisdiction over the Kizhkulam and Killiyur *pakuthies* should be transferred to the Kuzhithura station.

The Kuzhithura V. M, School was in a very dilapidated condition and was one of the oldest buildings. New buildings should be put up at an early date on the site acquired for the purpose.

A waiting room for girls, and a latrine should be constructed in the English School at Martandam. A compound wall and a well were also absolutely necessary. A hospital should also be opened near the school for the convenience of pupils belonging to distant places.

In regard to means of communication, the member said that the Kuzhithura-Madichal ryots' road and the ryots' road starting from Padannalummood and meeting the Kuzhithura Pattanam road should be taken over by the Government for departmental maintenance after constructing the necessary culverts.

Lastly, he hoped that the Minor Irrigation Committee would go into the question of minor irrigation in the taluk, especially the Chittar Scheme and also enquire into the question of levying *kudipathi* from ryots in respect of irrigation works.

In conclusion, he requested that the Chenankulam tank in Madichal might be restored at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayana Pillai, the first thing that you said was that the tolls in the Padannalummood market should be

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abolished. From certain facts you seem to think that the Land Revenue Commissioner is not for abolishing the tolls. But I may tell you that he is also for abolishing the tolls and I expect orders being passed for the abolition before long.

As regards the abolition of the western toll-gate at Kuzhithura, I may tell you that Government have ordered that the toll-gate be shifted to the 22nd mile of the M. S. Road. Your other suggestions will be noted and necessary action taken.

Then you spoke about the working of the grant-in-aid Mission Hospital at Marthandam and the appointment of a qualified doctor there. You say that you want a qualified doctor. Different people may give different interpretations of the expression "qualified doctor". Here in Travancore we have got several grades of medical men. Any person who has passed a University medical examination is called a qualified doctor. According to our rules, persons who have a particular kind of training in Neyyoor are also considered fit to serve as Sub-Assistant Surgeons. You may say that you want a University qualified man. But the Administrative Board, Medical Services, says that a new man has been appointed in this hospital and his fitness is being watched. So far, he is found to be satisfactory. The Board considers that the institution is efficiently managed. Any medical man having some experience, who goes and spends some two or three hours in any institution, can decide for himself how it is worked by watching the treatment of the patients, the supply of medicines and other things.

With regard to the conversion of the Arumana dispensary into a hospital, Government are not at present satisfied that there is any necessity; and the existing accommodation is sufficient for the needs.

As regards the establishment of a Government dispensary at Putukada, there is some trouble about the selection of the site for the dispensary. The actual location has not been fixed.

73. Needs of the Vilavankod taluk.

MR. P. M. RAMAN PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Kuzhittura*) spoke on the following needs of the Vilavankod taluk:—

(1) Improvement of the buildings of the V. M. schools at Kuzhithura and Munchira. These buildings were in such a deplorable state that, if they had been used for holding private schools, the grants due to them would have been stopped.

(2) Botany should be taught as an optional subject in the English High School at Martandam. It would help to create some interest in the pupils to take to agriculture.

(3) An English Middle School for girls between Nagercoil and Trivandrum was very necessary. Kuzhithura was a central place and the school might be opened there.

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